

June 9, 1977

Dear Bess and Bob,

Thank you so much for the beautiful little bracelet you sent me with your provincial "Inilium" on it. It is something I can cherish for a very long time.

We all would like to extend our sympathies on the robbery of your home, and the complications of Bob's surgery. We hope everything works out for you soon.

I am very sorry I did not get to visit with you more when you were here. Someday soon, I hope to see Canada, especially Niagara Falls.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Love,
Lisa

May 16th, 1987

M

Mr Bruce Stewart
National Museum of
Science & Technology
2380 Lancaster Rd.
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M8

Dear Mr Stewart;

Your phone call added to similarity of the theme in my McKenzie story, ~~showing how~~ my cousin Tait, if ignored by me, pops back into my life again, in the most amazing ways. This is explained on the first page of the book.

I have intended adding to the story with the booklet enclosed "Time will tell," as he visits his cousins at a dinner party in Toronto, and could be while they speak of past adventures. In fact, "Time will Tell" could be a better title for the whole book.

John and Robert McKenzie are Canadian born sons of Tait's brother Bertram McKenzie, a civil engineer from Ottawa. The boys served in the R.C.A.F. during World War Two. Robert became a well known architect, and John with his talents in art, was a commercial artist in design, is Vice Pres of the Stein printing Co as well as teaching Caligraphy at the University. They both have their families in Atlanta. A sister, Dawn McKenzie ~~Klaenen~~ lives in Jacksonville Florida at 14145 Ivylgail Drive N. Fla. 32225 U.S.A. That means Tait had 2 nephews and a neice.

Tait's brother William was studying theology, and switched to Christian science, working with Mrs Eddy..wrote hymns for their hymnal, and was Editor of The Christian Science Monitor still being published. He had one son Stuart. His wife, son and himself, are all demised. The sister Agnes, married late in life,..not too successfully as Mrs Pritchard, and lived with her Mother at my grandmothers home at 4 Spadina Rd, often visiting her brother William in Boston, and at my home in Collingwood.

My Grandmother Mrs John (Shiells) Bertram was a sister of Tait's Mother, Mrs Rev William (Shiells) McKenzie - my great Aunt Katie, making my Mother a first cousin as Mrs Ella Bertram Pitt. Mother was born May 11th, and Tait on May 26th, both in 1867, so the two babies were Christened together at the McKenzie Manse in Almonte. They grew up very fond of each other and the whole family. My story book tells the rest of the "Strange Chronicle", of events, and effects on my life, which has been very full indeed. Not many have retired three times, then got happily married for 12 years. Few people have had my opportunities and good luck. Tait always told me accept them as they came along, which I did..successfully, with no regrets.

While my book does not dwell too much on Tait's technical work, I feel Jean McGill who wrote "The Joy of Effort" I gave my book from her, to John McK, and he enjoyed it. John, Robert and Dawn may know of Tait's will, although not mentioned, they had often visited at the Mill as children. A letter I found from Ethel McKenzies sister said they sold her treasures by auction as she left no will, as she had no children. I kept her letters as I packed what she requested, and had it signed by her lawyer Mr Greig in Almonte. Later she wrote I was to have them, but returned most of it to the Mill when I attended the McKenzie Days. I have only 4 pieces of glass left.

Tait's Uncle John was most helpful to the McKenzie family. He was my grandfather who prospered as a Hardware merchant in Peterboro, and the M.P. Liberal for 9 years around 1876, then moved to Toronto, owning the Bertram Engine Works (supplied the S.S. City of Kingston etc) and Pres of the Collins Inlet Lumber Co re booklet Time Will Tell. His daughter-my Mother married the Gen Mgr -Charles W. Pitt. When Aunt Katie McKenzie was widowed and left with small children, ~~he~~ ^{grandfather} bought a piano for teaching the music she loved and

It provided the income to help educate her family. It is interesting to note John Bertrams platform Parliamentary Companion of 1876 edited by Henry J Morgan 11th edition -states-"will give the Administration in power a loyal, but not slavish, support in carrying out the policy they ~~advocate~~ ^{advocate} while in opposition...to consolidate the Dominion, giving to each province justice and equal rights, thus allaying sectional feeling, an securing prosperity and happiness thruout the land. In favour of opening connections with the Great-North-West without delay, that facility may be offered for settlement. Will advocate Free Trade as far as the circumstances of the country will allow, that the burden of taxation may fall as lightly as possible on the great producing classes, the farmer, mechânic and labourer." So thats what they have been trying to do for 111 yrs since then !!!!

I did find the address for the statue casting firm Tait used:

The Medalic Art Company
325 East 45th St
New York, N.Y.

Unfortunately they have moved. May be to Conn. Likely Jame F Leys could give you a correct address...or Jean McGill...or John. I have given you their addresses over the phone. his y

John McKenzie recently gave me one of Peace Posters he was asked by Japan to submit for a Hiroshima Conference. Canada and the U.S.A were asked to contribute. They were shown later in Washington and New York. He also gave me an illustrated book printed in Japan showing all the entries. I would be pleased to give the Peace Poster AND the beautiful book to the Mueum if that could be acceptable. I hesitate to mail them for fear of damage, and would have to find some way of getting them there, as I am unable to drive that distance at present.

I regret the lenght of the letter, but felt the family explanation might explain the reason for my interest. Did you know Tait McKenzie always remained a Canadian until his death, and loved his Scottish connection. John now calls me his Canadian Connection. I am very proud of it...and even use it for Can - USA friendly relations in every way.

Would you kindly inform me if the John Stuart McKenzie poster and book of Posters would be of interest.

Glaucoma has prevented re-writing my "Strange Chronicle" so trust you may be able to perceive it as it is.

It was a pleasure talking to you.

Yours very sincerely,

EBB

epb.

Mrs. Elizabeth Pitt Barron

I trust you will forgive my not typing this as I intended
as it would delay the parcel, and tire me terribly at my age. EPB.

Mr Bruce Stewart
National Museum
of Science and Technology
Kawacaster St. Ottawa

Dear Mr Stewart.

Your phone call was similar to the theme in my
story ^{book} showing how my cousin Tait McKenzie, if overlooked by me,
pops into my life again in most unexpected ways. I sometimes
change the title to "Time will Tell", as it has still gone on with
the next McKenzie generation, with his two nephews Robert
who is an architect and Aboula John an artist as well as Vice
President of the Stein Printing Co. of Atlanta Ga. Both were
in the RCAF and lived in Ottawa. Their father Bertram McKenzie
was a civil engineer there. A sister Ellen married a Swede
Ole Knutson. Most children have artistic talents.

I forgot to tell you I have a water colour painting done by Tait in
1901. It's not and given to my mother. It's not too outstanding, but
a pleasant daisy field and ~~endless~~ peace.

Tait and Ethel McKenzie had no children, and while at the Physical
Education job he got me at Bryn Mawr College, they gave me a key
of the house, helped me in many ways, and introduced me to their
friends. Being a shy Canadian, from Collingwood Ontario, it was
a revelation to me (Katharine Hepburn was at the College at that
time - and now the old lady of the screen)

However my story may be too personal, as I wrote it in a
wobbly time, while my husband was ill with terminal cancer. My
mother and I have always had good memory ability, and have always
been able to recall dates and events clearly. Even now at 82 years, I
still drive, but have omitted driving to the Mill of Kentail, as it
is a bit far now. I am confining my travelling to bus trips, as I
do have glaucoma, yet can keep up to my fellow travellers OK to date.

My information in the book parcel, will ^{not} give much technical
information re. Tait McKenzie's work and sculpture. I feel James
Keas writings are well done regarding this ~~area~~ ^{area} - but sometimes dull.
~~My~~ Jean McGill's book "The Joy of Effort" is a fine reference source, &
suggest you find one at the address I gave you. It also has
a more human picture. Tait was very human, a good sense
of humour, and with Ethel treated me as a family member
and even had a dinner party for me on my 21st birthday.
He was working on the Scottish memorial then, and had me working
in clay at the same time, running for the train with a damp piece
in my hand. My efforts did not warrant further work, and time
was a factor in my work which you may notice was filled
completely.

It still is, as a member of the Niagara Falls Historical Society,
formerly on the Mill of Kentail Museum Advisory Board and the
Tait McKenzie Association - where I suggested it should be R Tait
McKenzie as there are other Tait McKenzies - but it was unheeded.
Robert, Rob, Bob and Rab were used by his family. I knew his mother
and sister who lived with my grandmother Mrs John Bertram at
4 Spadina Rd. His mother was my great Aunt Katie (Catherine) (m)

and I spent many happy Christmas there. My grandfather was a Federal Liberal Member in 1876, and a parliament book at that time ~~reads~~ reads "will give the administration in power a loyal but not slavish, support in carrying out the policy they advocated while in opposition. - and to consolidate the Dominion, giving to each province justice and equal rights, thus allaying sectional feeling, and securing prosperity and happiness throughout the land. In favour of opening the Great North West without delay, that every facility may be afforded for settlement. All advocate Free Trade as far as the circumstances of the country will allow, that the burden of taxation ~~will~~ ^{may} fall lightly as possible on the great producing classes, the farmer, mechanic and labourer. (Sounds familiar)

John Bertram was the "uncle John" who often helped the McKenzies. Tait & my mother were both born in May - Mother May 11th and Tait on May 26th. The Mothers - devoted sisters - Helen ^{Shiells} Bertram, and ~~Mother~~ Catherine Shiells McKenzie christened their babies together in Almont by Tait's father - Rev William McKenzie a Scottish Presbyterian. Bertram born in 1867. Canada's Birthday year.

John Bertram became prosperous as a Hardware merchant in Peterboro, was a M P for ^{Peterboro} nine years - moved to Toronto - Pres of Collins Dyer Lumber Co, became a shipbuilder - Bertram Engine Works until his death in 1904 - one week after my birth at 9 Walmer Rd - his home at that time.

So you can see how the Bertrams and McKenzies were related - & always friends. When Aunt Katie McKenzie was widowed while Tait was very young, her brother-in-law gave her a piano which enabled her to teach music, and help with the education of her family. Her daughter Agnes was one of the first to introduce Kindergarten in London Ont where she & her mother lived at the time. William McKenzie, her brother, discarded a theology course to become a Christian Scientist - worked with Mrs Eddy, and eventually Editor of the Christian Science Monitor. He was very dignified, most pleasant and did much for his sister Agnes - who married late in life - and chose her husband not too wisely - (to put it mildly)

Bertram, the engineer had a successful career, as did his sons, Robert & John in Atlanta, and Dawn McKenzie Oleson in Jacksonville Florida. Now their children are doing well.

John McKenzie has given me a "Peace" poster designed and painted by him, at the request of Japan, and was shown in a special conference at Hiroshima by a special commercial Artists of USA and Canada. His effort is outstanding, and specially mentioned at the Washington Exhibit - (last year I think). I also have a Book showing all the entries, and would be glad to present both to the museum, if they are interested, although there may be a problem getting them to you.

I regret the length of this letter and perhaps was carried away. However, I just found an address I have been looking for

The Medallie Art Co.

325 East 45th St.

New York. N.Y. (no code number)

It may not be too much help as I believe they moved elsewhere, may be Conn. Jean McGill or Jamie Leys may know. They ~~casted~~ ^{cast} many of Tait's pieces of sculpture, and could be most informative about his work

28

Sunday

Bright sunner
lovely day - dry roads

MEMO

	Sea Party for Bob -		Sunday 19
	1 Mary Pitt	Toronto	Monday 12
	2 Bert Pitt	Toronto	attended 31
5	3 Flora Putman	Welland	
56	4 Ted Putman	"	
	5 Laura Putman	"	
	6 Ken Steeves	"	
	7 Margaret Van Wyk	Niagara Falls	Pineapple Loaf
	8 John Van Wyk	" "	Fancy Cookies
	9 Marlene Brebner	" "	Birthday Cake
	10 Bill Brebner	" "	
	11 Pam Wedd	Port Colborne	Lunch Guests
	12 Pete Wedd	" "	1 Mary } sandwiches
	13 Ann Hughes	Messissauga	2 Bert } Muffins
	14 Elong Hughes	"	3 Alot B } Tarts
	15 Elorother Boyer	Bracebridge	Bananas
	16 Mel Huck	Welland	Rice Puddg
	17 Marjorie Huck	"	Supper Guests
	18 Jack Brightly	Niagara Falls	1 Bea Brightly
	19 Bea Brightly	Niagara Falls	2 Jack "

Regrets

Mary Cawthorne - Flue

Gerry Nash

Braven "

Michael Beacome

JANUARY

S M T W T F S

1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

MARCH

S M T W T F S

7.1

MARCH

1

Monday

2

Tuesday

3

7:00	Bob's Birthday.	a.m. - Books	S
Princess Manor Wellan	1 Ethel Martin apt 321	Expenses	St
" 8:00	2 Bill Martin " 321		B
"	3 Mr R Pilon " 109	p.m. - Prenters - Pray Redd.	
9:00	4 Mrs R " " 109	- St Kitts - Market	
"	5 Antonia de Sepia " 209	Ted Sales Tax	
10:00	6 Joe de Sepia " 209	Noel Brenner Virginia	
"	7 Mr Schesler " 5--	evening - Ted Visit	
11:00	8 Mrs " " 5--		
Welland Connaught	9 Dorothy Mahood	Mora Chemo Therapy.	
12:00	10 Edna Chin get	- has shingles	
St Kitts	11 Eva Alexander	mid riff	
1:00	12 Harry Alexander		
	Regrets & McCormack		
2:00			
3:00	Tidied up		
	moved furniture		
4:00	Cleaned		
	Finished 10 ⁰⁰ p.m.		
5:00	Tired		
6:00	Mora - to Toronto.		
7:00			
8:00			



The **Margaret Eaton School Digital Collection** is a not-for-profit resource created in 2014-2015 to assist scholars, researchers, educators, and students to discover the Margaret Eaton School archives housed in the Peter Turkstra Library at Redeemer University College. Copyright of the digital images is the property of Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Canada and the images may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email digital images for individual non-commercial use. To learn more about this project or to search the digital collection, go to <http://libguides.redeemer.ca/mes>.